March 18, 1952 E. HODALY 2,589,809

SAFETY DOOR LATCH FOR VEHICLES

Filed Sept. 14, 1949

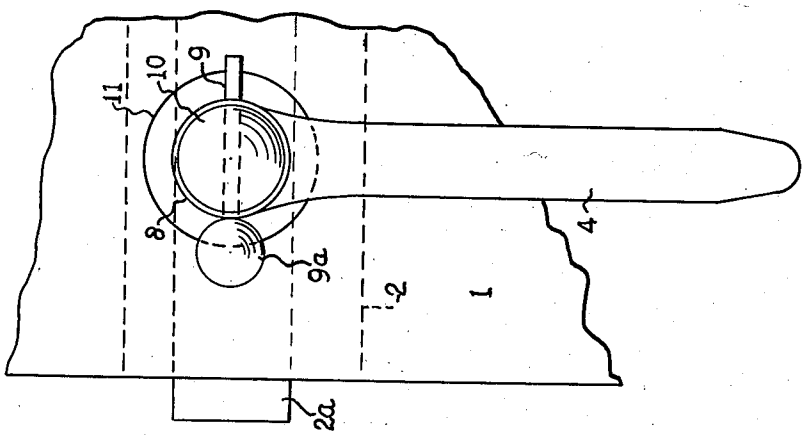


Fig. 2.

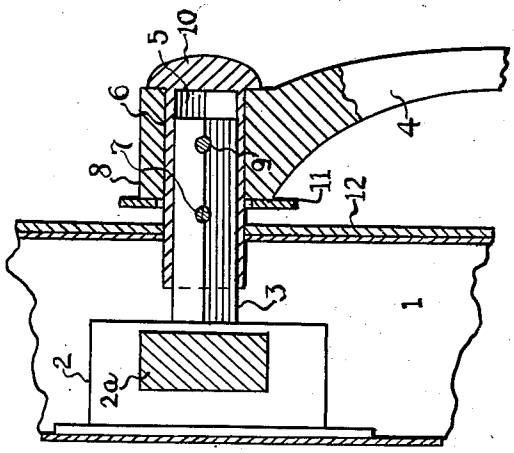


Fig. 3.

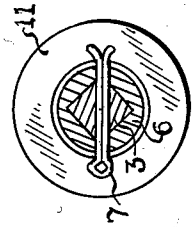


Fig. 4.

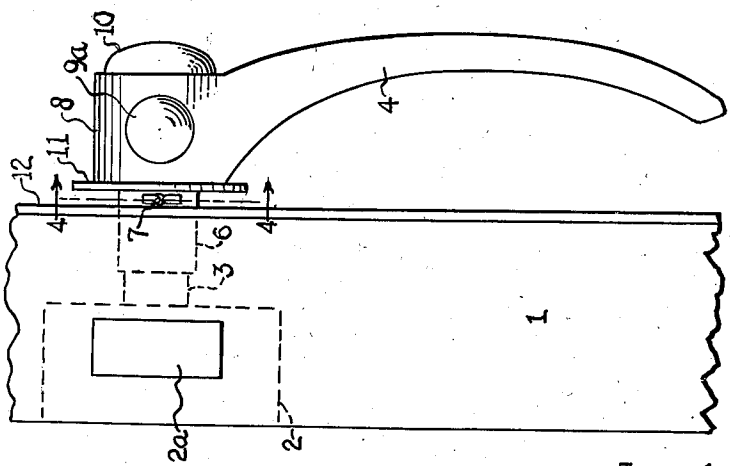


Fig. 1.

Inventor

Emerick Hodaly

By

J. S. Murray

Attorney

Patented Mar. 18, 1952

2,589,809

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,589,809

SAFETY DOOR LATCH FOR VEHICLES

Emerick Hodaly, Detroit, Mich.

Application September 14, 1949, Serial No. 115,604

2 Claims. (Cl. 292—352)

1

This invention relates to door latches and particularly latches for vehicle doors.

In numerous instances, children have been killed or injured, due to their unlatching doors of moving vehicles, and it is, moreover, desirable occasionally to prevent opening of such doors by adult passengers.

An object of the invention is to adapt the interior handle of a vehicle door latch to be readily released, when desired, from its operating stem, and to thereby prevent effective use of the handle while avoiding removal of the latter from the stem.

Another object is to adapt interior handles of door latches already installed on vehicles to be quite simply modified for safeguarding such latches in accordance with my invention.

These and various other objects are attained by the construction hereinafter described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary elevational edge view of a vehicle door equipped with my improved latch.

Fig. 2 is an interior view of said door and its latch.

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of the same taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a cross section of the latch taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

In these views, the reference character 1 designates a motor vehicle door equipped with a latch generally designated at 2. The latch bolt 2a is actuable through any ordinary mechanism (not shown) by a rockable stem 3 equipped with a handle 4 interiorly of the vehicle. Said stem has a squared or other polygonal end portion which in usual practice fits a correspondingly shaped opening in the handle. In applying my invention, said squared end portion fits in a correspondingly shaped socket 5 extended centrally into an elongated handle mounting 6 from its inner end, such mounting being thus adapted to rotate the stem. Withdrawal of the mounting from the stem is permanently prevented by a pin 7, set into said parts transversely thereof. The mounting has a cylindrical exterior form and is slip-fitted in a hub 8 of the handle. To adapt the handle to drive the mounting a pin 9, transverse to the common axis of hub and mounting, remotely engages these parts, said pin having a ball head 9a, facilitating its removal. The handle cannot escape from the mounting even when the pin 9 is removed, being held in place by a head 10 terminally formed on the

2

mounting. Preferably a washer 11 is carried by the mounting to space the handle slightly from the door or from upholstery 12 interiorly applied to the door.

When the pin 9 is in place, the latch may obviously be operated by the handle, the mounting 6 forming a drive connection. To safeguard the latch against operation by children or others, it is necessary merely to remove said pin, whereupon the handle is freely rotatable on the mounting.

Avoidance of complete removal of the handle in rendering the latch temporarily inoperative, is highly desirable, since the handle is much more bulky than the pin 9 and cannot be so conveniently pocketed or otherwise stored. Also, in case of loss, it is far less expensive to replace the pin than the handle. The described construction lends itself, at low cost, either to an original latch installation or adaptation to a latch already installed. In the latter case, the original handle may ordinarily serve my purpose, by drilling its hub end to fit the mounting 6.

What I claim is:

1. A latch construction for vehicle doors comprising a latch-operating stem, a handle having its hub formed with a substantially cylindrical opening extending from side to side of such hub, a mounting for said handle carried by the stem and having an exteriorly cylindrical portion slip-fitted in said opening, a pin securing the mounting on the stem, and a pin normally establishing a drive from the handle to the mounting and removable to afford free rotation of the handle on the mounting, said mounting having a terminal head retaining the handle on the mounting when said removable pin is removed.

2. A latch construction as set forth in claim 1, said stem having a polygonal cross section and said mounting having an opening receiving and corresponding in cross section to the stem.

EMERICK HODALY.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
2,046,342	Muck et al.	July 7, 1936
2,197,508	Peo	Apr. 16, 1940
2,473,937	Cameron	June 21, 1949